

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER AND WATER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at 809 State Street, Room #3, LaPorte, IN 46350, and by Zoom Meeting, Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82015295897?pwd=SjllK0FsYnFzM3B5TFZxNUsxQ0xvdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 1529 5897 Password: 060992

A. Call to Order

John Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

C. Roll Call

Roll call was taken.

Present: John Carr, Mark Danielson, Jerry Jackson, and Amanda Lahners

Absent: Mitch Bishop and Marcella Kunstek

Also Present: Daniel Byam, Jones Petrie Rafinski
Steve Carter, O.W. Krohn & Associates
Barry McDonnell, Esq
Jennifer Ransbottom, Jones Petrie Rafinski
Chris Vogeler, Astbury (via Zoom)

D. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 28, 2026, Monthly Board meeting were presented.

Amanda Lahners made a motion to approve the July 28, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mark Danielson. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Public Comments:

Robert Smith, 5777 E Saugana Trail -Mr. Smith stated he had questions. He stated last month he presented pictures of the placement of a grinder pump. He asked whether the grinder pump is going to be moved and whether there is no tie-in to the cottage they are tearing down right now. Can I get an answer on that? He stated it has been a month. John Carr asked if he had talked to the Administrator. Jennifer Ransbottom stated this will be discussed at the Engineering Committee scheduled for September 2. Mr. Smith stated that at the last meeting, it was indicated that an Executive meeting would be held following the July Board meeting. Jennifer Ransbottom indicated that was when the meeting was going to be scheduled. Mr. Smith stated he would really like to know, following the storm damage and stuff. What would have happened if that storm had happened at Saugany Lake? There is nothing but trees out there on their power lines. Mr. Smith stated they had power back after 7 hours on the lake, but the people behind them did not. But with these grinder pumps, we are hostage. We can not do anything. We used to be able to go to the lake and grab water and put it in the toilet to flush the toilet. A lot of us have generators out there, but you can't even turn the generator on. These grinder pumps are substandard, and the problem is why not, but you've already made your decision. I have been coming here for a year and a half talking about an affluent system, and I know it is gray water rather than sludge, but at least we would have been in control of our own. Jerry Jackson stated those all have pumps too. Mr. Smith stated they do have pumps, but they are hooked up to the homeowners, so if you have a generator, you'd still have sewer. The pump on an affluent system runs about the cost of a 100 Watt light bulb for a year. I have been coming here for a year, and we are past that stage, but it is never too late to do the right thing. We are hostages. What are we going to do about hygiene? We are a lot like those people in Portage and Lake County; they still don't have any power. Once the power is hooked back up, they have to be inspected. Those people are waiting another 2 weeks for inspections. They are setting up facilities for people to take a shower or go to the bathroom; how can you do that? I am not going to leave my home to go to a facility to take a shower or go to the bathroom. This whole system is wrong. I honestly believe that JPR sold you guys on something. Marshall County shut it down. I don't know why you guys did not shut it down. This should never have even started. I am so disappointed in our Board because you had the authority to do this, and you have now left us hostage. We have always been maintained. Mark Danielson indicated it was 3 minutes. Mr. Smith stated it had been three minutes. He stated he wanted to state his peace. Why did it not start with the pollution of our lake, and now it is our water? That is wrong. Something needs to be investigated as to why it changed from pollution in our lake to pollution in our water. The wells have not been checked. Thank you very much. You all have a good day.

F. Reports

1. Steve Carter – Claims and Finance

Steve Carter reported the following financials for the month of July.

a. Rolling Prairie

- i. Receipts for the month: \$14,355.87
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$3,871.33
- iii. Interest Income: \$326.59
- iv. Loan Payment to the County: \$1,830
- v. Net positive cash flow for the month: \$8,981.13
- vi. Total ending balance: \$419,326.33

Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances

- a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$392,819.17
- b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$16,190.50
- c. Bond & Interest (BONY): \$10,316.66

b. Hudson Saugany Service Area

- i. Receipts for the month: \$5,802.73
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$727.35
- iii. Interest Income: \$2,264.81
- iv. Payments on the Project: \$26,079.00
- v. Net Negative Cash Flow: \$18,738.81
- vi. Ending Cash Balance: \$827,368.90

Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances - Steve indicated there was a transfer of funds that was missed. There was a transfer of funds of \$200,000 from Hoosier Fund to the operating fund; therefore the number on the report are off by \$200,000.

- a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon Checking): \$27,205.04
- b. Debt Service Reserve (BONY): \$21,834.40
- c. Bond & Interest Account (BONY): \$52,457.58
- d. Construction Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$755,711.46

c. Toll Road – Horizon Account.

- i. Receipts for the month: \$53,307.03
- ii. Operating Disbursements: \$33,750.86
- iii. Interest Income: \$587.78
- iv. Total Positive Cash Flow: \$20,193.95
- v. Total Ending Balance: \$338,637.28

Monthly Analysis of Fund Balances

- a. Operation & Maintenance (Horizon): \$211,776.82
- b. Improvement Fund (Hoosier Fund): \$126,860.36

d. Claims

Steve Carter indicated there were a couple of additional claims for total Claims presented for approval in the amount of \$28,713.24.

Amanda Lahners made a motion to approve the Claims in the amount of \$28,713.24 as presented. Mark Danielson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Astbury Water Technologies

a. Operations

Chris Vogeler indicated there was only one issue that month with some lift station issues. The pumps were pulled and checked. Ultimately, everything seemed to be ok and was put back in. Issues continued, Gas Voda was called. Replaced floats and sensor. Everything seems to be back in working order. The City of LaPorte cleaned the lift station, it was not that dirty, but this is something that should be done on an annual basis. Jerry Jackson indicated that this the City of LaPorte's practice at least one a year including those in Rolling Prairie.

b. Billing

Jennifer Ransbottom stated that Astbury's billing information was included in the Board's packet. There was a Lien Payment report included in the packet.

G. JPR District Administrator

1. Variance Invoices for Property Owners

Jennifer Ransbottom reported there is one property owner who was given the time extension and has not paid. The expiration date was August 1. Jennifer Ransbottom indicated she had attempted to reach out by email but received no response. Mark Danielson inquired if there is a phone number. Jennifer Ransbottom indicated she had just found a phone number and will try calling, but there was a lien filed on this property. Mark Danielson suggested giving a courtesy call. Barry McDonnell inquired if modifying the lien amount would be a course of action. Jennifer Ransbottom will attempt to call and send another email to the property owner, and in the meantime Barry McDonnell and Jennifer will discuss the course of action.

2. Customer Connection Process Update – Saugany Lake – Engineering meeting to be scheduled

3. Engineering Committee Meeting – September 2, 2026 – 1:00 PM Central (2:00 PM Eastern)\

4. Cyber Security Vulnerability Assessment – Engineering Committee to Review

H. JPR – District Engineer

1. Hudson/Saugany Project Construction Update

Dan Byam reported for Contract A, TGB has installed all the pipe. They are halfway through installing the ARV's along the force main route and are scheduled to begin excavation of the pump station. TGB has the date scheduled for the jack and bore along 500 beginning September 21.

Selge, Contract B is wrapping up and pulling conduits from risers to grinders, but major production work there is complete. A pre-punch list has been developed and is being worked through before substantial completion.

The contract timeline is about 80% complete. TGB's substantial completion is at the end of November, and Selge's is at the end of December.

a. Contract A – TGB Pay App #13

Dan Byam presented Contract A - TGB's Pay App #12 for \$87,440.90. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Mark Danielson made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #13 for \$87,440.90. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Contract B – Selge Pay App #11

Dan Byam indicated that Pay App #11 for \$617,236.17. He indicated JPR reviewed all quantities and recommended Board approval for payment.

Mark Danielson made a motion to approve Contract A - TGB's Pay App #11 for \$617,236.17. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Contract A – TGB Time Extension Letter

Dan Byam reported TGB Unlimited submitted a follow-up letter stating that they will not be able to formally request a time extension with a proposed duration until after they can complete the installation of the ARV's and the pressure testing to determine the extent of the compromised pipe. They have been in coordination with their insurance provider regarding the proposed solution for the repairs, and the insurance provider has proposed CIPP lining or pipe bursting. JPR is looking into the applicability of CIPP lining and its impact on pump station hydraulics and pipe longevity. TGB is committed to resolving this issue.

2. ITRCC – TP3 Water Distribution System Improvement – IDEM Notice of Intent to Construct Water Main.

Dan Byam reported that ITRCC is replacing the water main underneath the Toll Road and through the site. They are proposing to replace the water main all the way back to the water plant. As the water provider to ITRCC, the District has to sign off on the construction of the water main. No new connections or usage is anticipated, but as the water system provider, the District needs to sign off.

Dan Byam inquired of Barry McDonnell if the District needs to grant the ITRCC a Right of Entry in order to conduct the work on District-owned property. Barry McDonnell inquired if the District has insurance or will be indemnified should they do damage to any of the District's facilities.

Jerry Jackson made a motion to approve John Carr to sign the IDEM Notice of Intent to Construct a Water Main Extension. Amanda Lahners seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

I. Executive Committee - 2026 Budget Information - Ongoing

No report

J. Finance Committee

No Meeting

K. Engineering Committee

September 2 at 1:00 PM Central (2:00 PM Easter)

L. New Business

1. Pre-Agenda Meeting & Attendees – John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Corey Campbell, Barry McDonnell, Dan Byam, and Jennifer Ransbottom. Next meeting is September 15, 2026, at 9:00 AM Central (10:00 AM Eastern)
2. Next Meeting – September 22, 2026, in person and via Zoom/Teams links.

Jerry Jackson reported that power was back on to Rolling Prairie rather quickly following the recent storm. A request was received from 212 W. Mechanic Street to install a generator at the Oak Street lift station. The District has been over that issue before. They were without power for about 8 hours or so, and the level in the wet well had not risen to the level where a pump was being called for; therefore, in good shape. Jerry Jackson stated this has been looked at before. He noted these types of storms are becoming a norm, and the Board may want to consider a portable generator. There will be a permanent generator at Saugany.

M. Old Business

1. Flow Meter Repair – 1083 E SR 2 – LaPorte Village Manufactured Home Community (Account #M014173-0)

Jerry Jackson reported that electricity to the meter has been turned off. He is completing the INDOT request form. The project consists of moving the meter, putting a sump pump in the pit, and a little shaping of the ditch for water to run around and past the meter instead of into the pit.

N. Adjournment

Mark Danielson made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 AM. Seconded by Jerry Jackson. All were in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.